

SOVEREIGNTY OF WOMAN.

In a man, for example, according to the doctrine delineated by Mrs. Farnham, the love of power is an infernal passion, because it is subservient to the purposes of his self-love; but in woman it is a divine and holy impulse. As developed in the unengenerate masculine nature, it gives birth to the gigantic horrors of the human career; for it is pursued for purely selfish ends; men strive for power, for every form of external good with the keenest avidities and the bitterest hatreds. If any good

The main purpose and spirit of this work may be inferred from our rapid summary of isolated portions of its contents. « We wish to do justice to the nobleness of its aims, the value of its suggestions, and the reflective power which it indicates. The authoress has calmly struck out a new path, and entered upon it with admirable freedom and boldness, almost indeed with a certain grandeur of movement that must command respect. She is far enough, however, from being an agreeable, or even an interesting writer. Her style is heavy, diffuse, overloaded with epithets, and of course languid; often evincing great rhetorical pretension, with but little rhetorical skill; nor are her logical powers, which she parades with rather too elaborate ceremony, of a high order, her apparently nice distinctions often cover but a slight show of meaning; and her habitual accumulation of synonyms exhibits a want of mastery of language rather than precision of thought. Her argument requires frequent allusion to physical considerations in discussing the position of woman; but instead of softening the details of the subject by a veil of delicate and kindly reserve, she indulges in a wonderful carol of statement and illustration, more suitable for the freedom of the dissecting room, than for a literary work intended for general readers. Her point of view is evidently taken from the primal innocence of Eden before the establishment of the fig-leaf dispensation; but modern tastes will scarcely be prepared to revert to the natural simplicity which prevailed prior to the occurrence of original sin.

Without discussing the contents of this volume in their theological relations, which is not our speciality, we may commend it to the attention of the public for its transparent expression of the inmost convictions of its author, and its freedom from the influence of routine, fashion, or traditional authority in the exercise of thought. It is rare that written words so faithfully represent the interior processes of the mind. Such genuine transcripts of life and experience possess a value and attractiveness, irrespective of the results of formal argument or the peculiar nature of the conclusions which they are intended to support. In the present case the themes discussed are of the loftiest import; they are treated in the spirit of reverent, but unshrinking inquiry; the author evinces a wise appreciation of the demands of the age; he ranks among the most progressive thinkers of the day; but without a particle of scorn or contempt towards those whom he leaves behind. The advocates of submitting religious doctrines to the test of reason will find a great deal in the volume to command their approval and sympathy; while those who prefer a more implicit and docile faith may here come in contact with views the opposite to their own set forth with earnestness and simplicity, with clearness and force of reasoning, and often with effective eloquence.

The editor of this volume has prefixed to an extended historical essay, discussing the share of the respective authors of the *Federalist* in the composition of the work, together with several topics of historical and political importance. In addition to the *Federalist* the volume contains the *Continentalist* and other papers by Hamilton.

Mr. Greeley has completed Vol. I. of his History of "The American Conflict," wherein is traced